

THE EVENING STAR.
WASHINGTON.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1899.
CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.
THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent family circulation much more than the combined circulation of all other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

Pass the Army Bill.
Announcement is made that unless the Senate acts at this session upon the Army reorganization bill, now pending before it, an extra session will have to be called immediately after the 4th of March to accomplish this legislation, which is sorely needed. The Attorney General has decided that the President has no power to hold one of the volunteers after the exchange of the ratifications of the peace treaty, which will officially end the war, and also that his jurisdiction over the regulars who were called to bring the emergency to a close, will cease with that event. This creates a serious emergency, which must be met at once.

Democratic senators are in some cases quoted as saying that they will not be parties to any plan to increase the standing army of the country. If the Republicans desire to assume responsibility for this course, they say, they must take it in their own time, when they are formally and fully in control of both branches of Congress. This is an unpatriotic evasion of duty. The situation is imperative in its demands. It is not the result of political maneuvering or of personal manipulation. It is an outgrowth of the war with Spain. No man will venture to assert that that struggle was in the least degree political. It was declared by no party vote. The defense fund of \$50,000,000 was voted unanimously by the two houses. Men of all parties helped to win the victory.

If the bill is now halted because of political prejudices and apprehensions the Democrats will find such justification for yielding as they may require in the reflection that it is a Republican President who now asks the passage of the measure and that the bulk of the votes by which it will be passed in the Senate will be Republican, as they were in the House. The country will more surely place the credit for the measure upon the Republican party under present circumstances than though the matter were relegated to another session and then sent through in the routine of the annual business. It is not to be forgotten that there is credit for this policy, as well as responsibility. The country's interests are menaced by the approach of a time when the present army must be reduced to the inadequate force of 27,000 men. The party that stands in the way of an escape from this dilemma will be more surely condemned than the party which seeks to meet the emergency by right action.

Filibustering against the army bill in the Senate will evoke a certain storm of protest and indignation from the country. The men engaged in it will find themselves as bitterly condemned by the thinking citizens of the republic as are those who came so near to defeating the peace treaty. There is time for its consideration and passage and final adjustment in conference as well as for the passage of all of the regular appropriation bills, if diligence be exercised. It is far more immediately important than the supply bills. The condition which it is to remedy is now at hand, whereas the emergency which the budgets are framed to meet does not arrive until the 1st of July.

The Snow and Ice Emergency Fund.
With the fund of \$10,000 for the removal of snow and ice granted by Congress yesterday in their hands the Commissioners can do a great deal in a short time toward clearing the streets of the obstructions which are now piled high in them. The present emergency was not to be foreseen. The snows came in succession, without interval enough between them to permit any extensive street cleaning work. The extraordinary repetition of the process soon exhausted the appropriations, too, and within a few hours the local authorities found themselves in a predicament for which no blame is really to be attached to any one. It was the result of a most unusual combination of circumstances rather than of any particular negligence. It might perhaps have been avoided, had the House acted more promptly upon the Commissioners' recommendation for a larger fund for this purpose in advance of the actual emergency. But when the trial came Congress answered the appeal of the authorities with commendable promptness and liberality, the House accepting the Senate amendment materially increasing the sum with a minimum of hesitation. It is to be questioned whether much could have been done even with the extra funds in view of the sudden and severe fall in the temperature. The snow has been frozen so solidly in places that it is hard to remove it from the streets and the work is attended with more difficulties than have been encountered before in several years. It will be well, however, for the appropriations committees of Congress to bear this experience in mind in framing the annual provision for this purpose, so that the next time they may be more ready to cope with the emergency whenever it arrives.

Some of the country's financiers are again preparing to remain awake nights trying to see how they can save millions of dollars to the government by cutting a few hundred off the salaries of its clerks.

The temptations to interfere with Americans at Manila and with Englishmen at Apia are calculated to make the German emperor wish there were not quite so many of the Anglo-Saxon race.

Mr. Quay and Mr. Wadsworth are both pinning their hopes to the proposition that there is no telling what a jury will do.

Mr. Cannon and the Canal.
Admiral Dewey has been in Manila bay since May 1 last for more than nine months. He performed the real work which he went there to do inside of as many hours. Since that performance he has been safeguarding the interests which were created by his brilliant achievement. The suggestion has been frequently heard during the past few months that Admiral Dewey ought to be given a rest, that he ought to come home and permit his countrymen to express their appreciation of his ability, to be questioned by the press, to be lauded, too much foolish talk about running him for the presidency, coupled with a great deal of nonsense about his politics.

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It is necessary that this government take a decided stand on the canal project without delay. It can take that stand at this session as well as at another, whatever may be the condition of the nation's balance sheet. Even Mr. Cannon yesterday acknowledged that he favored the assumption of the canal enterprise by the government. His plea was merely for delay. Delay will bring only additional embarrassments, perhaps additional cost. It will bring no counterbalancing advantages. As a last resort it would be possible to pass this bill with a proviso that no expenditures should be incurred until it beyond a specified amount for a certain period, fixed with reference to the probable passing of the present stringency. This would apply to the objections now raised by the chairman of the appropriations committee. But it is to be questioned whether even this postponement of payments would be necessary in view of the facts already stated.

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All this has been in a measure unjust to Admiral Dewey, being evidence of a misappreciation of his character and his own conception of his duty. He is an American citizen first, a seaman in the service of his country second, a politician last of all. If ever. At no time during these nine months has he been anything but the most anxious to do his duty. He has been the most patriotic of men, his attitude before his countrymen. He has simply held to the wheel and has steered his craft through a very tortuous channel into what appears now to be safe water.

For it is to be remembered that Admiral Dewey's greatest task was by no means the smashing of the Spanish ships on the morning of the first of May. His problems began to accumulate after he had sent them to the bottom. He found not only a Spanish foe but a German malcontent, while in the background loomed the Tagal menace, ever growing darker. He had no troops for many weeks, and they were anxious weeks for the admiral. There was a chance that he might be called upon to give battle to another Spanish fleet, which actually started toward him and got into the Sagay canal on its way.